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A GOOD ROADS PROGRAM
THAT SPELLS PROSPERITY

Pasquotank Will Not Be Content With One Interstate Highway—Transportation Problems Demand Dismal Swamp Route Too

Northeastern North Carolina now is practically assured of the construction of a permanent hard surfaced highway between the Albemarle Sound and the Virginia line, connecting the county seats of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck. It is absolutely certain that Pasquotank county will spend a half million dollars within the next twelve months in the construction of hard surfaced roads in this county. But we must not permit our enthusiasm to abate; we have only begun the great work of knitting together the peoples of northeastern North Carolina and tide-water Virginia with a system of good and durable highways. It is not enough that we should have a modern highway into and out of Norfolk, Va.; we should tap Norfolk county from another direction, have a highway into the city of Portsmouth by way of the Dismal Swamp Canal and unite the county of Gates to the county of Pasquotank by building from this highway into Gates.

The foregoing is in part the message delivered by Mr. Saunders to an audience at the Alhambra Theatre Wednesday night. Mr. Saunders delivered something of the same message to the City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Va. Tuesday night. Mr. Saunders told the Councilmen of Portsmouth that Pasquotank would build a hard surfaced road from Elizabeth City to the Camden county line at a point near South Mills; that South Mills township, to be bonded for \$50,000, will continue that highway from Pasquotank along the Dismal Swamp Canal, to the Virginia line. From there on the task of completing the highway into the city of Portsmouth is the task of the city of Portsmouth and the County of Norfolk. The county of Norfolk is interested; an appropriation of \$20,000 from the city of Portsmouth will clinch the matter. W. L. Cohoon, of Elizabeth City, and W. L. Halstead, of South Mills, followed Mr. Saunders in addressing the Portsmouth Councilmen. The Council will pass upon the question of an appropriation as soon they get an opinion from their attorney assuring them of the legality of such an act.

Every progressive man, woman and child in Pasquotank, Camden and every other northeastern North Carolina county should get behind this Dismal Swamp Highway project. It means a shorter route to Norfolk from Elizabeth City, by ten miles. It means a route that does not cross a rail road track this side of the Virginia line.

And a shorter distance route to Norfolk means much more to Elizabeth City than a road that will enable people to get to Norfolk; it means greater transportation facilities for northeastern North Carolina. It will even affect the prosperity and general welfare of the people of the lower sounds. Did you know that it is with the greatest difficulty that the fishermen of Dare county who ship their fish to market thru this city, get their fish from Elizabeth City to the rail road and steamship terminals of Norfolk. Right now we are running a special train thrice a week from Elizabeth City to Norfolk to handle these fish. That train may be taken off any day and rail road schedules can not be easily arranged to make connection with the north bound train and steamers from Norfolk. The fishermen have got to get their fish to market the day after they are caught. They mean bad fish and a loss of thousands of dollars.

But suppose we had, say, cement roads between Elizabeth City and Norfolk. Instead of special trains secured with great difficulty for the transportation of perishable food stuff, we would have fast motor trucks to handle this business. Trains are cumbersome and offer vexing problems of loading, unloading and transferring. The big motor truck, even a 20 ton truck, is an independent, flexible unit that wastes no time. A special train does well to make one trip of 40 miles in a day; a motor truck can make the trip several times over.

The motor truck will solve the transportation problems of northeastern North Carolina when we get roads on which motor trucks can travel with safety and speed. The motor truck will carry the produce of these counties to market and bring back much of the perishable and semi-perishable food stuff which we buy from the outside market.

We are at the beginning of a great era of industrial, agricultural and commercial development in northeastern North Carolina; a development that carries with it better schools, better social conditions and more of the life worth living. Elizabeth City should lead in this development and Elizabeth City will reap many rewards for her progressive efforts.

SOME DISTRICT
HIGHWAY FACTS

An Analysis of Senator Ferebee's District Highway Act

Total length of road, from the Albemarle Sound at Edenton to the Virginia State line at a point near Moyock, 49 miles.

Total cost of cost of road, including free public bridge over Pasquotank river at or near Elizabeth City, \$1,000,000.

Amount of cost to be borne by the state and national governments, \$500,000.

Amount of cost to be borne by property owners along the right of way of road, \$250,000.

Amount of cost to be borne by a bond issue upon the district, \$250,000, with 25 years in which to pay it.

Total amount of bond issue to be borne by the county of Pasquotank will be about \$110,000.

Pasquotank, while bearing the greater part of the burden of taxation, is really not burdened at all. Because under this Federal aid project it helps its neighbors, it gets six miles of road from Little River to Elizabeth City and gets a free bridge across Pasquotank river.

If Pasquotank did not come in on this scheme it would have to build a road from Little River to Elizabeth City anyway; and if it built the kind of road contemplated under this district plan, it would cost the county \$120,000, and it would still pay tolls over a privately owned bridge across Pasquotank river.

Persons in the upper and lower ends of Pasquotank county who think they will be unjustly taxed to pay for a road running thru the center of the county, have simply overlooked the fact they would have to pay for this road anyway.

Really, the district project imposes no extra tax burden on Pasquotank county. We simply take the money we would put into one stretch of road anyway, and put it into a Federal aid project which gets the road and a long list of other benefits. The proposed northeastern North Carolina district has the approval of the State Highway Commission. In fact the idea came from the State Highway Commission and Senator Ferebee's bill was drawn along lines suggested by the body.

The first counties to get state and federal aid under the new state road law which passed the General Assembly this week, will be the counties embraced in this district, these being the first counties to launch a project with the approval of the State Highway Commission.

The road it is proposed to build will be of government standard cement construction and the road will be 20 feet wide. If it is decided to build a narrower road the cost will be materially reduced. Should the commission decide to build a 16 foot road the project will cost much less than \$1,000,000.

With all of these facts in evidence, can any one offer intelligent opposition to the project? Pasquotank has reached out and literally cemented her neighboring counties to her in a project which lifts the whole district out of the mud, enhances the value of every foot of real estate in five counties and puts northeastern North Carolina on the good roads map of America.

BIG STOCK OF PIANOS
FOR A SPECIAL SALE

Duff Piano Co. Assembles Largest Exhibit of Pianos Ever Seen in This Section

Positively the largest stock of pianos ever displayed in this section has been gotten together by the Duff Piano Co. of this city for a special sale which that firm will conduct on Monday, March 17. It is stated that the stock is larger than all the stocks ever assembled by all the dealers in this territory at any one time. And if price is a consideration, the prices announced for this sale are way below the usual offerings. The sale even includes phonograph records and needles, all priced at less than wholesale prices. Piano manufacturers and dealers, for patriotic reasons, did not push the sale of the war is over for long time. The Duff Piano Co. sale should prove a stimulant to the business in this section and put pianos in scores of homes that are now without them. The sale starts Monday and will end when the last piano is sold, be it on that day or some day next week.—adv.

Mrs. M. Bell Blount, Principal, Miss Mary Sitterson, Assistant. This school gave this week to the little starving children across the sea, the sum of \$12.25 and their best wishes go with the amount given.

Welcome---and Thank You!



SAUNDERS RETURNS FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

POTATO CROP IS
COMING UP SHORT

High Seed, High Fertilizer, Shortage of Labor and Uncertain Future

N. Howard Smith, manager of the Carolina Potato Exchange, who is one of the best informed men on the potato situation in eastern North Carolina, predicts that the early Irish potato crop in northeastern North Carolina this summer will be equivalent to sixty per cent of last year's crop. Mr. Smith is in close touch with the growers, especially in the counties of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck and his predictions usually are safe.

Early in the season it was predicted that the potato crop in this section would be fully 75 per cent of last year. Seed potatoes at \$6 a bag, fertilizer at \$70 a ton, farm labor at \$2.50 a day and no labor in sight at that, had a deterrent effect upon the potato grower. Then too the drop in the price of peanuts and cotton and pork may have overshadowed a drop in the price of other farm produce. The growers have moved cautiously, hesitating to put in any considerable acreage. Some of the larger growers refused to plant at all; others have increased their acreage upon the strength of the assured decrease in the acreage of their neighbors.

It is hard to forecast the prospects for a sweet potato crop. Last year the sweet potato growers couldn't get slips for planting and there was a shortage of labor such as this country has never seen. But this year the growers in Camden and Currituck have an abundance of slips and have enough bedded to make a crop twice as large as last year's. The sweet potato crop is now waiting on the labor question. If the growers can force an adequate labor supply, even at prevailing wages, northeastern North Carolina will market a bumper crop of sweets this summer.

But the North Carolina growers are in a ticklish situation. They have put in and will put in their 1919 crops on a war-time basis. Every item entering into the cost of production has been purchased at top prices. To make anything at all on their crops the growers must get high prices. Any successful bear movement would play havoc with the growers. All of this means that the growers in this section need organization a never before. Without organization they can not protect themselves in normal times; these abnormal times certainly demand advanced organization directed by the best brains in the country.

PRIZE PORKERS

J. H. Ayldett killed two porkers on his farm near Weeksville, Wednesday, and the two dressed weighed 1,300 pounds. The largest, weighing 750 lbs., was a big bone Poland China. The next largest, a Duroc Jersey, weighed 550. Mr. Ayldett is acquiring some fame as a farmer and stock grower. He has just given the double vaccine treatment to 120 thoroughbred pigs on his farm.

Want ads on page 8 this week.

SHAD MAY BE SHORT
BUT PRICES AREN'T

North Carolina Shad Fishermen Getting Good Returns For Their Product

North Carolina shad have sold for 25 cents to 40 cents a pound on the eastern markets this week, the lower price being for bucks, the fancy price for roes. The fishermen are not making big catches peculiar to former years but the fancy prices obtainable may offset this effect. There is no let up in the demand for North Carolina shad and many Fulton St. New York, and Dock St. Philadelphia, market merchants have their solicitors in the field. Most of the shad caught in these waters are sold or consigned to dealers whose ads are found in this newspaper.

A special train, secured largely thru the efforts of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. and Wallace & Keeney Co., of New York, takes fish from Elizabeth City thrice a week, making connection with Washington, Baltimore and New York steamers at Norfolk. Shad taken from these waters early yesterday morning, for instance, are on the New York market this afternoon and on sale at 2 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TWO BIGAMISTS FACE
JURY HERE NEXT WEEK

Henry Lefferts Elischer, a young soldier who was married here in November, was committed to the county jail this week in default of \$1,000 bond, on a charge of bigamy. This gives the Superior Court two bigamy cases to try when it convenes here next Monday, March 17. Romaine Brace, a comely young naval officer, has been in jail here for several months, awaiting trial on a similar charge. Both of these young men, having been taken away from civil life and home environments to serve the colors, found it rather convenient to take on new wives. North Carolina's lax marriage laws and the proximity of Elizabeth City to the Norfolk naval base gave them the opportunity to get into trouble.

C. P. HARRIS ACQUIRES AN
INTEREST IN McCABE & GRICE

An announcement of interest in local mercantile circles this week concerns the purchase of a ninth interest by C. P. Harris, in the firm of McCabe & Grice. McCabe & Grice is one of the oldest and most successful wholesale and retail dry goods houses in Elizabeth City and eastern North Carolina. Mr. Harris has been connected with the business since 1908, having charge of the books and office work. He has been a faithful and efficient employee and his acquisition of a financial interest in the business is what often happens when a thrifty and conservative employee shows his capacity to carry a good part of the burdens of his employers.

GOV. BICKETT COMING

Governor T. W. Bickett will address the Negroes of Elizabeth City and vicinity on April 7, 1919, the occasion being the 300th anniversary of the transplanting of the Negro race from Africa to America. The event will be celebrated on an elaborate scale by the colored people of northeastern North Carolina.

EAGER TO START
BUILDING ROADS

Pasquotank Commission Thinks There Should Be No Delays

It is the intention of the Pasquotank Highway Commission to lose no time in getting underway with the project of issuing bonds and spending \$500,000 in the construction of roads in Pasquotank county.

The commission held its first meeting Monday afternoon and elected W. J. Woodley chairman. The other members of the commission are O. F. Gilbert, J. J. Morris, A. B. Houtz and J. W. Foreman.

Before attempting to do anything, the commission will get a conference with engineers of the State Highway Commission and get all road building information and suggestions available from that source. In meantime the commission will make careful study of different types of road paving material and will consider the employment of a capable engineer to superintend the building of permanent roads.

It is altogether too early to talk about where the roads will be built but it is pretty certain that the commission will first take up the proposition of building a road from Weeksville to Hinton's Corner via Elizabeth City, giving the county a main highway connecting the upper and lower parts of the county. The commission will not concern itself with the Desert road, which is the road connecting Elizabeth City with Perquimans County, because that road will be taken care of in the district highway project. This leaves more money for road building in other parts of Pasquotank.

EAGER FOR BONDS

Pasquotank will have no trouble in disposing of its proposed \$500,000 issue of road bonds. Bond buyers all over the country are besieging the Highway Commissioners of Pasquotank for information as to terms and date of sale.

First Citizens National Bank statement on page 12.

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
OPTOMETRIST
Over McCabe & Grice
Elizabeth City, N. C.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY O'
1919 MADE GOOD RECORD

Not as Progressive as Was Desired, But it Moved The State Forward on Health, Education, Roads And Taxation Problems

A fairly comprehensive review of the work of the General Assembly of 1919, which concluded its session this week, is given by John A. Livingston in the Raleigh News & Observer. It follows: Measured by magnitude of results accomplished, the most important session of the General Assembly in a decade has virtually passed into history. Legislation furnishing machinery for revaluation of all taxable property was its most noteworthy achievement; provision for a six months school term in every community in North Carolina its most praiseworthy act.

Submission to the people of the income tax amendment to the State constitution opens the way to a new era in the economic history of the commonwealth while the inauguration of a State-wide system of highways is the outstanding feature of the session from a material standpoint. Strengthening of the public health laws comes as a direct result of lessons learned in a world war.

It Kept the Faith

The General Assembly didn't do all that was expected of it nor did it go further than to reflect, perhaps imperfectly at times, the wishes and desires of enlightener public opinion. Thanks to the efforts of wise and conservative leaders, it kept the faith and rendered service that merits the approval of the people of the State.

The legislators go home with the consciousness of having set in motion new forces for the development of the Tar Heel State, which if intelligently directed will make for great progress and development.

Not Ready to Pioneer.

While the General Assembly was too firmly wedded to ancient ideas to respond to the demand for equal suffrage, its passage in the Senate and the closeness of the vote in the House showed that even here a distinct advance had been made in progressive thought, as compared with the session of two years ago. Had the supporters of suffrage started early in the session with consistent purpose, it is entirely possible that equal municipal suffrage would have been achieved. However, the present session, in failing to pass its measure, missed its greatest opportunity to show its progressiveness and this in the future will be charged against it as an unwarranted ultra-conservatism.

Again the General Assembly was too firmly committed to conservative thought to call a constitutional convention. It was realized that the present document is out of date and should be superseded by a more workable one but the legislators as a whole didn't want to disturb things too much. The Senate passed this bill but it died in the House.

The House never gave the Senate an opportunity to act on any of the proposed safeguards for the better enforcement of prohibition laws. Practically all of these measures were defeated and here again the Legislature was derelict to its trust.

The Most Forward Step.

The revaluation program was worked out under the direction of Representative Rufus A. Doughton, chairman of the House Finance committee, and Senator James A. Gray, chairman of the Senate Finance committee. They had the help and co-operation of Corporation Commissioner A. J. Maxwell and so completely and so thoroughly was their work done that the bill was passed exactly as reported by the committee and without discussion on the floor of either house. Never before perhaps has such an epochal bill been enacted into law by unanimous consent in this State unless in times of war or dire necessity. Speaker Brummitt did his best day's work when he named Governor Doughton to head this committee and Senator Gray, able young banker, proved to be a running mate worthy of his veteran colleague.

New Educational Program.

In the educational program aimed specifically to secure a six months school term a wide divergence of opinion existed at the beginning of the session as to the methods to follow. It was no easy task that faced Representative Victor S. Bryant and Senator F. C. Harding, chairmen of the respective Education committees, but with wonderful tact they reconciled conflicting opinions and brought the warring elements together. In forming this program the guiding hands of J. Y. Joyner, retiring State Superintendent, of Public Instruction, and of Dr. E. C. Brooks, the present superintendent, rendered great service.

The income tax amendment directly fixes with the provisions for revaluing taxable property and in fact is considered an indispensable feature of the new program of taxation in North Carolina. It was brought into the House by Governor Doughton, who has justly earned the title of "the grand old man of the General Assembly". He championed the measure and left nothing in the way to hinder its thorough consideration by the people.

Roads Bothered Much.

The General Assembly had most trouble in getting a State road law into shape and while the law finally enacted for the present does not seem to meet the wishes of anybody in many particulars, it is predicted that it will eventually prove to be satisfactory to all or to a large part of the people. It was upon this measure that the General Assembly devoted most discussion and gave the most time. Senators Scales and Stevens were the pioneer champions of a State system when it was considered doubtful if the General Assembly would try a hand at it, and a host of legislators have worked at it since. The Senate stood for a State-wide system while the House was committed to a county system with State and Federal aid. The result is a compromise in which the State system is retained with optional county aid. While not authorizing a bond issue it is provided that money may be borrowed. The law as finally passed represents the best efforts of a conference committee. It was Governor Doughton that put it across in the House when it looked like no bill could get through that the Senate would endorse.

The health legislation, approved by the State Health Board and the War Department provides for radical changes in the control of venereal diseases and for inspection. Senator Joseph A. Brown and Representative Stanley Winborne headed the respective Health committees and encountered little opposition in putting these measures through. However, had there been a fight made, they would have proven worthy opponents.

Able Presiding Officers.

Speaker Dennis B. Brummitt was happy in the selection of his committees in the House and they worked in hearty accord to put through a progressive program of legislation. Scarcely any friction was encountered and this is a most excellent record when the magnitude of legislation passed is considered. Practically every chairman was the right man for the right place. Speaker Brummitt was actuated in his appointments by a desire to organize a working body that would serve the State. Speaker Brummitt proved himself to be a presiding officer of exceptional ability. His decisions were rendered with impartiality and fairness to all concerned while his conduct of the business of the House met with universal approval on the part of the members.

Lieut. Gov. O. Max. Gardner was equally happy in the organization of the Senate and never at any time was there friction of any consequence. Never once during the session did anyone question the justness of his decisions while acting as presiding officer. He had the advantage of being well acquainted with public affairs and with the personnel of the Senate. His committee assignments were thoroughly considered by him with a view to securing a maximum of service by putting the proper man in the right place, and the Senate's record shows he exercised excellent judgment.

Their Thankless Task

Chairmanship of an Appropriations committee is ordinarily a thankless job because it is never possible to please everybody but Senator George Holderness and Representative R. S. McCain, who headed the respective committees of the Senate and House, are exceptions to the rule. They had the task of properly distributing more than five million dollars among the various State institutions and this required careful thought and study. Both were well fitted for the place, Senator Holderness being a banker and farmer while Representative McCain is a lawyer and business man.

Increased Pensions.

It fell to lot of the Appropriations committee to find a way to increase the pensions of the Confederate veterans of the State. They couldn't see the way clear to make it a million a year, but they brought it up to nearly \$700,000, as compared with \$525,000, which was paid out last year. In connection with the road legislation it is interesting to note the estimate that between 60 and 70 million dollars were authorized in bonds for public roads in the various counties of the state during the next two years. The road committees, headed by Senator Ferebee and by Col. Bennehan Cameron, rendered faithful service.

Little Partisanship.

A notable feature of the General Assembly was the lack of partisanship exhibited in the discussions. Not once during the Senate sessions were partisanship fights encountered and only once in the House. The utmost good feeling existed between Democrats and (Concluded on Page 12)

When you buy a shotgun to get that chicken hawk, make sure it's a Remington. adv. M14-21

Norfolk markets on Page 12.

TIME FOR INCOME TAX
RETURNS ABOUT UP

To-day is practically the last day in which to get in your income tax returns. Your statement and a check for at least one fourth of the amount of tax you must pay must be in the hands of the Collector of Internal Revenue, in Raleigh, tomorrow, Saturday night. Failure to get your returns in the Raleigh office by that time means trouble for you.